

Rhodora

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DAVID PEARCE PENHALLOW.

WALTER DEANE.

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It is my sad duty to record once more the death of one of our number, a man who won marked distinction as a student of fossil plants, Professor David Pearce Penhallow, a non-resident member of The New England Botanical Club since November 6, 1896. For many years connected with McGill University in Montreal, Professor Penhallow has been considered by many rather as a Canadian than otherwise, but this was far from the truth. To the end he was a loyal citizen of the United States to which he returned regularly to cast his vote.

Although unable to be present at our meetings except on rare occasions, he took a keen interest in all our proceedings, was a devoted reader of RHODORA, and we were fortunate in having an article from his pen appear in the September number of our journal for 1909. This article, 'An Account of certain noteworthy features in the habitat of Rhodora,' was suggested the previous summer by an investigation of a peat bog in process of development in Shelburne, New Hampshire, on whose borders grows the shrub Rhodora.

Whoever was privileged to know Professor Penhallow as a warm friend, or to meet him for only a single time, was irresistibly drawn to him by his courteous manner, his fine figure, handsome face, gentle but firm voice, and the charm of his conversation. He was a man of sterling character, firm in his convictions of what was honest and upright and fearless in expressing them, and yet withal there was a gentleness in his nature and disposition that always won friends. His knowledge

was not confined to a single branch of science, but his botanical activities were in many different fields in all of which he worked with a thoroughness always characteristic of everything he did. The extreme versatility of his scientific studies may be shown by a few examples.

In 1882 he published as Series 3, no. 2, of the Houghton Farm Experiment Department, 'Peach Yellows,' a paper dealing with vegetable pathology. In the Ninth Annual Report of the Montreal Horticultural Society, published in 1884, appeared his article 'Notes on the trees and shrubs of northern Japan,' a paper of horticultural importance. In May, 1886, the *American Naturalist* contained his observations on 'Variation in water in trees and shrubs,' showing the hydration of dead wood and of wood from living trees and shrubs, the latter case illustrated by studies of seventy-six species, a subject within the field of vegetable physiology. In the *Canadian Record of Science*, vol. ii, no. 2, April, 1886, was published 'Physical Characteristics of the Ainos.' These tribes occupy "Yezo and the Kuriles" and Professor Penhallow says that his experience extended over "four years of intimate acquaintance with these people, hundreds of whom were brought under observation." To this ethnological paper I will add one more dealing with palaeo-botany, 'Notes on the Erian (Devonian) Plants from New York and Pennsylvania,' published in the *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, vol. xvi, 1893. This is enough to show the great variety of subjects that occupied his attention and were treated with a masterly hand.

David Pearce Penhallow was born at Kittery Point, Maine, on May 25, 1854, and was graduated at Amherst College, Massachusetts, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science (B. S.) in 1873. Here he developed a passion for vegetable physiology, but he was not allowed to give himself up to this work, for not long after his graduation he went to Sapporo, Japan, to assist in founding the Imperial College of Agriculture, President William S. Clarke of Amherst being at the head of the party, and William Wheeler, now of Concord, constituting the third member. There Mr. Penhallow was Professor of botany and chemistry from 1876 to 1880, and acting President from 1879 to 1880. He was accompanied during a portion of this time by his wife who was Sarah A. Dunlap of Amherst, and whom he married on May 4, 1876. After finishing his engagement at Sapporo he returned to the United States, and soon after was appointed botanist

to the short-lived Houghton Farm in New York. This position he held during the year 1882 to 1883. Professor George L. Goodale, whom I wish to thank for some facts regarding Professor Penhallow, says, "This experimental farm began its work under the most favorable auspices and presented a capital chance for investigations in plant life. Professor Penhallow did first-class work at this point, but, suddenly, in a spasm of economy, the projector of the enterprise gave it up, and sent him adrift." Professor Goodale offered him the hospitality of the Harvard Botanic Garden and the University Laboratory, and he also had the summer school class in botany.

In 1883 he accepted the position of Professor of Botany at McGill University in Montreal. Here he had general classes in botany, but there was not much opportunity for physiological work. The late Sir John William Dawson, the Canadian geologist and naturalist, and at that time Principal of McGill University, turned him over to palaeo-botany and the little leisure he had was given up to that part of the field. He held his position there for twenty-seven years until his death. The University conferred upon him the degree of Master of Science (M. S.) in 1896, and that of Doctor of Science (D. S.) in 1904. It was during this period, in 1888, that Boston University gave Professor Penhallow the degree of Bachelor of Science (B. S.).

His published works were written mainly during his life at McGill University, and some idea of their extent can be formed from the fact that his publications on botanical subjects alone, chiefly relating to palaeo-botany, comprise about one hundred and fifty titles, while his reputation as a scholar, a director and an organizer is shown in the many honorable positions he held in societies and institutions of note both at home and abroad.

During the past few years he was very active in establishing a Biological Station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, and to this task he devoted his very best energies and strength. Much of the work came during the vacation period and this in connection with his regular duties was too much for him. His wonderful physique could not endure this strain.

It was early in December, 1909, that he fell ill, but he manfully labored to regain his health which had always been so robust that the strenuous climbs and tramps that many shrink from were a pleasure and exhilaration to him. He went with his wife in late December to South Carolina, and in early spring they returned north to Shel-

burne, New Hampshire, leaving there in July for Kittery Point, Maine. He was gradually regaining strength, and at one time even hoped to resume work in the fall. As the time, however, approached, it was clearly impossible, and he was granted a year's leave of absence. On October 14, Professor and Mrs. Penhallow sailed from Montreal for England, intending to settle in Cornwall where a complete change and rest would, it was confidently believed, restore him to health. His friends little realized that they should never see him again. While still at sea on October 20, five days' sail from Liverpool, he died and, though we all mourn the death of a valued member of our Club and some of us of a warm and cherished friend, yet we can rejoice that his record is one of a life well spent in increasing the world's knowledge of botanical science, and we can be proud that Professor David Pearce Penhallow was connected so long with us.

A NEW SPECIES OF SCIRPUS FROM MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW JERSEY.

M. L. FERNALD.

IN June, 1910, the writer received from Mr. Witmer Stone of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia a *Scirpus* from the New Jersey Pine Barrens, with the following self-explanatory communication:

“Last year at about this time I found a *Scirpus* — just one plant — that recalled *S. atrocinctus* but seemed to differ in several particulars. In spite of numerous efforts I failed to find any more until now, when I have just found about an acre of it at another locality (near Williamstown Junction on the Atlantic City R. R.). I am sending you some fresh specimens for your opinion but fear they will be dried out when they reach you. I can, however, send herbarium specimens later if you desire them. *S. atrocinctus* we get only up on top of the Alleghanies and the Pocono Mountains and it blooms *much* later than this. I should thank you very much for your opinion of this Pine Barren plant. If it *is atrocinctus* it is a very remarkable occurrence. I might say that the black bands were distinctly glutinous on the growing plant.”